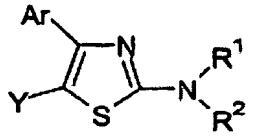
Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A compound of formula



I

in free or salt form, where

Ar is phenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, cyano and C_1-C_8-haloalkyl, or naphthyl,

R^1 is hydrogen, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_1-C_8-haloalkyl, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, C_1-C_8-alkoxy-C_1-C_8-alkyl, carboxy, C_1-C_8-alkoxycarbonyl and acyloxy, or R^1 is a 5- or 6-membered monovalent heterocyclic group,

R^2 is hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, acyl or -CON(R^3)R^4,

R^3 and R^4 are each independently hydrogen or C_1-C_8-alkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a 5-or 6-membered heterocyclic group, and

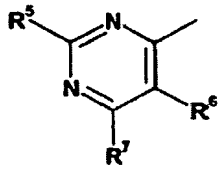
Y is a pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl group, optionally substituted by at least one C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, C_1-C_8-alkylthio, C_1-C_8-alkylamino, di(C_1-C_8-alkyl)amino or acylamino group.

Claim 2 (original): A compound according to claim 1, in which Ar is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen or cyano.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 1~~ or 2~~, in which R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by cyano, carboxy or C_1-C_4-alkoxy, or R^1 is a monovalent 6-membered N-heterocyclic group.

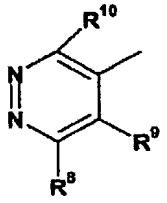
Claim 4 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ in which R^2 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, 5-membered heterocyclylcarbonyl, or phenylcarbonyl in which the phenyl moiety is optionally substituted by C_1-C_8-alkoxy.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A compound according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, in which Y is a group of formula



IV

where R^5 and R^6 are each hydrogen and R^7 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_1-C_4-alkylthio, or Y is a group of formula



V

where R^9 and R^{10} are each hydrogen and R^8 is hydrogen or di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino.

Claim 6 (original): A compound according to claim 1, in which
Ar is phenyl substituted by halogen or cyano,
R^1 is hydrogen, phenyl optionally substituted by cyano, halogen, carboxy or C_1-C_4-alkoxy, or R^1 is a monovalent 6-membered N-heterocyclic group,
R^2 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, 5-membered heterocyclylcarbonyl or phenylcarbonyl in which the phenyl moiety is optionally substituted by C_1-C_8-alkoxy, and
Y is pyrimidinyl or pyridazinyl optionally substituteed by C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, di(C_1-C_4-alkyl)amino or C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonylamino.

Claim 7 (currently amendedl): A compound according to **claim 1**, in which
Ar is phenyl substituted by cyano meta to the indicated thiazole ring,
R^1 is hydrogen, phenyl substituted by cyano, fluorine, carboxy or C_1-C_4-alkoxy or R^1 is 6–membered N-heterocyclyl having one or two ring nitrogen atoms, optionally substituted by C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_1-C_4-alkoxy,
R^2 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, furylcarbonyl or C_1-C_4-alkoxyphenylcarbonyl, and
Y is a group of formula IV or V as defined in **claim 5**.

Claim 8 (original): A compound according to claim 1, substantially as described in any one of Examples 1–16.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 in combination with an anti inflammatory, bronchodilatory, antihistamine or anti-tussive drug substance, said compound and said drug substance being in the same or different pharmaceutical composition.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 for use as a pharmaceutical.

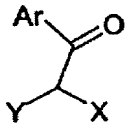
Claim 11 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The use of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition mediated by activation of the adenosine A2b receptor.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The use of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an inflammatory or obstructive airways disease.

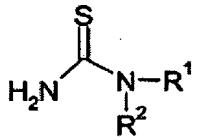
Claim 14 (original): A method of preparing a compound of formula I in free or salt form which comprises

(i) (A) for the preparation of compounds of formula I where R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl or a 5- or 6- membered heterocyclic group, reacting a compound of formula



VI

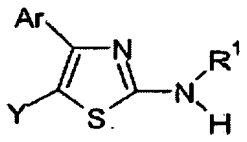
in the form of a salt, where Ar and Y are as defined in claim 1 and X is halogen, with a compound of formula



VII

where R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_1-C_8-haloalkyl, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, C_1-C_8-alkoxy-C_1-C_8-alkyl and acyloxy or R^1 is a 5- or 6- membered monovalent heterocyclic group, and R^2 is H or C_1-C_8-alkyl or

(B) for the preparation of compounds of formula I where R^2 is acyl or -CON(R^3)R^4, reacting a compound of formula



VIII

where Ar, R^1 and Y are as hereinbefore defined with, respectively, an acylating derivative of a carboxylic acid or with a compound of formula C1-CON(R^3)R^4) where R^3 and R^4 are as defined in claim 1, and

(ii) recovering the resultant compound of formula I in free or salt form.